

Bob wants

A8-Sun., Jan. 15, 1984

The Scrantonian

## Article on Henry Drinker Offers Rare Look at Area Frontier Life

A recently published article in "The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography" provides a rare glimpse of frontier life in upstate Pennsylvania at the end of the 18th century.

Written by a Philadelphia lawyer, born in Scranton and with family roots in Susquehanna and Wayne Counties, the article is entitled "The Union Farm: Henry Drinker's Experiment in Deriving Profit from Virtue." It has just appeared in the Pennsylvania Historical Society's journal for scholars and others interested in the history of Pennsylvania.

Henry Drinker was a leading Quaker in Philadelphia at the time of the Revolution and until his death in 1809. He acquired vast acreage in the northeastern corner of this state and in the southern tier of New York State. Drinker's commitment to Quaker principles led him to believe that maple sugar would replace cane sugar on every household table — thus knocking them under the detested slave economy of the West Indies its most significant prop. If successful in this venture, he also stood to profit handsomely since the maple forests he owned could be exploited for this purpose.

The Pennsylvania Historical Society includes

in its impressive collections Henry Drinker's letterbooks in which his clerks carefully copied all of his outgoing business correspondence. By turning to this material and by research in other contemporary sources, David Maxey, the author of this article, has summoned back not only the Philadelphia scene but also the remoteness and harsh challenges of life on the upper Delaware in the 1790's.

Henry Drinker was joined in the founding of the Union Farm by some of the most prominent citizens in Philadelphia, including Benjamin Rush, George Clymer, Tench Coxe, and Timothy Pickering. Over a period of more than five years, Drinker was in continuous correspondence with his agents upstate, notably Samuel Preston, John Hilborn, and John Kinsey. Sharing in their trials and disappointments, he nevertheless encouraged them to press forward in the harvesting of the "Sacharine Juice of the Maple Tree." But try as all of them might, the experiment was doomed to failure. The Union Farm — its houses, its mills, its orchard, its cultivated fields — have long since disappeared from the map. Thanks, however, to this research in original source material, Henry Drinker's experiment re-

mains in sight as a monument to Quaker idealism.

Atty. Maxey is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He has many ties to this area and the subject of his article. Both of his parents came from Forest City, and his

father, the late Paul H. Maxey, practiced law in Scranton.

Atty. Maxey maintains a vacation house in Pleasant Mount, Wayne County, not far from the location of the Union Farm. The final

totally appropriate link is that David Maxey is a managing partner in the distinguished Philadelphia law firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath, where he is actively involved in the practice of real estate, corporate, and banking law.

concern as was Edith Gardner. Pullia reported that Gertrude was in town because EAG was not feeling well. Oh my God — is this the end? Heaven help us. EAG is, of course, prepared to die at any minute. That will not make it any easier on the rest of us to carry on without her. At EAG's funeral I will deliver a eulogy that will be in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion. It will be, in some respects, similar to the one I delivered at

the Grinwood Reunion following Dwight Ruck's death. I want to play a Chopin nocturne at the

funeral of EAG as well — Rubinstein playing the posthumous nocturne — opus 72, No. 1 in E minor.

During church, HLRP invited me out to dinner and I accepted. When I arrived at the Grey Court I went in and said hello to WSP and read Russell's column and waited for a bit. WSP reported:

"Well I got two birthday cards. On my birthday it was twelve degrees below zero when I got up. I waited until the temperature went up to 6 degrees Fahrenheit and I walked up to Mrs. Fred

## BEREAN NEWS

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
33 Lincoln Avenue, Carbondale, Penna. 18407

### ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ADOPTS 1984 GOALS

At a recent meeting of the Administrative Board, Ministry Goals for 1984 were received and adopted. These came as a result of the work of the CommPac Committee. In addition to the "standard" program the following goals were adopted (not in order of priority).

1. Increase of Sunday School enrollment by 10-15 pupils.
2. Erect a new outdoor bulletin board.
3. Employ Gloria Seigle as Choir Director.
4. Purchase a new organ worthy of and appropriate for our church.
5. Reach out to Berean's Young Adults (18-30 yrs) to develop a ministry with/for them.
6. Increase our financial support for Berean's Ministry by 1% about \$10,000.
7. Use Media ei: Radio and T.V. to get the word around.
8. Purchase recording equipment.
9. Update all audio visual equipment.
10. Develop the church library.

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 12  
Carbondale, Pa.